

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 753

By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those museums that are dedicated to protecting and preserving monuments in Tennessee of historical importance; and

WHEREAS, the historic Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum is one such estimable museum wholly committed to preserving a site and building of historical impact in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, providing a window that looks over 100 years into Tennessee's past, the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, located in Jackson, Tennessee, the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum commemorates the life, legend, and legacy of John Luther "Casey" Jones, the heroic locomotive engineer who laid down his life to preserve the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 1900, at Vaughan, Mississippi, the life of Casey Jones, America's railroad legend who called Tennessee home, ended in a grinding crash on the Illinois Central Railroad tracks; and

WHEREAS, as a result of railroad miscommunication and railcar malfunction, Casey Jones's locomotive engine #382 was on a collision course with another train; instead of jumping from his train, Casey Jones courageously and firmly held the throttle and brake to slow down his train before crashing, no doubt saving numerous lives; and

WHEREAS, his skill and selfless concern for the lives of his passengers and crew were unquestioned and are worthy of honor and our awed remembrance, as his legend continues in stories and song; and

WHEREAS, forming the original committee to found the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum in the early 1950's, former Mayor of Jackson, George Smith, and the City of Jackson purchased Casey Jones's original residence and purchased a locomotive engine similar to the one involved in the historic crash; and

WHEREAS, the train engine, which is now displayed at the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum, was restored by I. B. Tigrett of the GM & O Railroad; and

WHEREAS, the Casey Jones Museum officially opened on the anniversary of the famous last ride on April 30, 1956, and the opening ceremony was attended by Mrs. Casey Jones and Casey Jones's fireman, Sim Webb; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, the City of Jackson, under Mayor Bob Conger's able leadership, entered into an agreement with Brooks Shaw's Old Country Store to assume day-to-day management of the museum; and

WHEREAS, the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum includes Casey Jones's historic home, a 130 ton steam locomotive similar to engine #382, railcars with model train exhibits, and the Casey Jones Train Store, the official gift shop of the museum; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of the 2005, the City of Jackson, through the office of Mayor Charles Farmer, was awarded a federal grant administered through the Tennessee Department of Transportation to build a new 7,000 square foot train station museum on the grounds of the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Jackson and the workers and volunteers of the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum have preserved the authenticity and integrity of this historic home and site for the enjoyment of all, and their perseverance, devotion to duty, and appreciation of Tennessee's rich history should be properly recognized and roundly applauded; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum upon the celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, applaud the citizens of the City of Jackson and the workers and volunteers of the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum for their meritorious service in preserving Tennessee's history, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.